

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coating for a surgical article comprising:
 - a) a copolymer having a predominant amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a
5 minor amount of at least one other bioabsorbable copolymerizable monomer; and
 - b) an effective antimicrobial amount of a metal salt of a fatty acid selected
from the group consisting of fatty acid salts of lithium, rubidium, cesium, francium,
beryllium, magnesium, strontium, barium, radium, aluminum, tin, lead, bismuth, transition
metal and mixtures thereof.
- 10 2. The coating for a surgical article of claim 1 wherein the metal salt of a fatty acid
is silver stearate.
3. The coating for a surgical article of claim 1 further including a fatty acid ester.
- 15 4. The coating for a surgical article coating of claim 3 wherein the fatty acid ester
is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearoyl lactylate, magnesium stearoyl
lactylate, aluminum stearoyl lactylate, barium stearoyl lactylate, zinc stearoyl lactylate,
calcium palmityl lactylate, magnesium palmityl lactylate, aluminum palmityl lactylate,
20 barium palmityl lactylate, zinc palmityl lactylate, calcium oleyl lactylate, magnesium oleyl

lactylate, aluminum oleyl lactylate, barium oleyl lactylate, zinc oleyl lactylate and mixtures thereof.

5. The coating for a surgical article of claim 3 wherein the fatty acid ester is calcium stearoyl lactylate.

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6. The coating for a surgical article of claim 1 wherein the metal salt of a fatty acid ranges from about 0.3 to about 10 percent by weight of the coating composition.

7. The coating for a surgical article of claim 3 wherein the fatty acid ester ranges from about 30 to about 70 percent by weight of the coating composition.

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8. The coating for a surgical article of claim 1 wherein the surgical article is a suture.

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9. A surgical suture having one or more filaments of bioabsorbable material coated with a composition comprising a copolymer having a predominant amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of at least one other bioabsorbable copolymerizable monomer and an effective antimicrobial amount of a metal salt of a fatty acid selected from the group consisting of fatty acid salts of lithium, rubidium, cesium, francium, beryllium, magnesium, strontium, barium, radium, aluminum, tin, lead, bismuth, transition metal and mixtures thereof.

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10. The surgical suture of claim 9 wherein the suture is a braided suture.

11. The surgical suture of claim 9 wherein the metal salt of a fatty acid is silver stearate.

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12. The surgical suture of claim 9 wherein the composition further includes a fatty acid ester.

13. The surgical suture of claim 12 wherein the fatty acid ester is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearoyl lactylate, magnesium stearoyl lactylate, aluminum stearoyl lactylate, barium stearoyl lactylate, zinc stearoyl lactylate, calcium palmityl lactylate, magnesium palmityl lactylate, aluminum palmityl lactylate, barium palmityl lactylate, zinc palmityl lactylate, calcium oleyl lactylate, magnesium oleyl lactylate, aluminum oleyl lactylate, barium oleyl lactylate, zinc oleyl lactylate and mixtures thereof.

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14. The surgical suture of claim 12 wherein the fatty acid ester is calcium stearoyl lactylate.

15. The surgical suture of claim 11 wherein calcium stearoyl lactylate is combined with the silver stearate.

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16. The surgical suture of claim 9 wherein the copolymer contains from about 80 to about 95 percent by weight epsilon-caprolactone.

17. A method of suturing a wound comprising:

5 a) providing a sterilized needled suture, said suture coated with a composition that is a mixture of:

1) a copolymer that is the reaction product obtained by polymerizing a predominant amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of at least one other bioabsorbable copolymerizable monomer selected from the group consisting of alkylene
10 carbonates, dioxanones, dioxepanones, absorbable cyclic amides, absorbable cyclic ether-esters derived from crown ethers, hydroxyacids capable of esterification and mixtures thereof; and

2) an effective antimicrobial amount of a metal salt of a fatty acid selected from the group consisting of fatty acid salts of lithium, rubidium, cesium, francium,
15 beryllium, magnesium, strontium, barium, radium, aluminum, tin, lead, bismuth, transition metal and mixtures thereof; and

b) passing the needled suture through tissue to create wound closure.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the metal salt of a fatty acid is silver stearate.

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19. The method of claim 17 wherein the composition further contains a fatty acid ester.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the fatty acid ester is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearoyl lactylate, magnesium stearoyl lactylate, aluminum stearoyl lactylate, barium stearoyl lactylate, zinc stearoyl lactylate, calcium palmityl
5 lactylate, magnesium palmityl lactylate, aluminum palmityl lactylate, barium palmityl lactylate, zinc palmityl lactylate, calcium oleyl lactylate, magnesium oleyl lactylate, aluminum oleyl lactylate, barium oleyl lactylate, zinc oleyl lactylate and mixtures thereof.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein calcium stearoyl lactylate is combined with
10 the metal salt of a fatty acid.

22. An implantable medical device having a coating comprising a mixture of :

- a) a copolymer containing a predominant amount of epsilon-caprolactone and a minor amount of glycolide; and
- 15 b) an effective antimicrobial amount of a metal salt of a fatty acid, the metal salt of a fatty acid selected from the group consisting of fatty acid salts of lithium, rubidium, cesium, francium, beryllium, magnesium, strontium, barium, radium, aluminum, tin, lead, bismuth, transition metal and mixtures thereof.

20 23. The implantable medical device of claim 22 wherein the coating further comprises a fatty acid ester.

24. The implantable medical device of claim 23 wherein the fatty acid ester is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearoyl lactylate, magnesium stearoyl lactylate, aluminum stearoyl lactylate, barium stearoyl lactylate, zinc stearoyl lactylate, calcium palmityl lactylate, magnesium palmityl lactylate, aluminum palmityl lactylate, 5 barium palmityl lactylate, zinc palmityl lactylate, calcium oleyl lactylate, magnesium oleyl lactylate, aluminum oleyl lactylate, barium oleyl lactylate, zinc oleyl lactylate and mixtures thereof.

25. The implantable medical device of claim 23 wherein the coating includes 10 calcium stearoyl lactylate and silver stearate.

26. The implantable medical device of claim 22 wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of clips, staples, pins, screws, prosthetic devices, anastomosis rings, and growth matrices.